



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

The City's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program aims to make walking and biking to school safer, easier, and more fun!

In conjunction with schools, parents, the Honolulu Police Department, and the community, SRTS identifies barriers and solutions to increase walking and biking to school.

Student benefit:

- Increase walking/biking safety;
- Reduce absences and tardiness;
- Increase daily physical activity;
- Arrive to school alert and ready to learn;
- Enjoy time with friends and neighbors;
- Connect with nature and neighborhood;
- Learn and apply traffic safety rules.

Community benefit:

- Reduce traffic congestion, especially near schools;
- Increase traffic safety;
- Foster community involvement;
- Reduce air pollution and traffic noise.

SRTS directly supports schools in meeting the State Department of Education's Wellness Physical Activity Guideline (PA4) by encouraging students and staff to walk and/or bike to school if reasonably safe to do so.

Other academic areas such as mathematics, reading, writing, and art can be easily incorporated into SRTS initiatives to create a project based lesson plan.



City and County of Honolulu
Department of Transportation Services

Safe Routes to School Program
<http://honolulu.gov/srts>



SRTS SPOTLIGHT

WALKING SCHOOL BUS:

STUDENTS WALKING TOGETHER

A Walking School Bus (WSB) is a group of students walking to school together. For elementary school children, the group is accompanied by one or more adults. It can be formally or informally organized. SRTS supports parents, school committees, community groups, and principals with organizing WSBs.

Walking is a great way to get active on a daily basis. Regular physical activity builds healthy bodies, reduces chronic disease, improves self-esteem, and reduces stress and anxiety. It can also help improve student academic achievement.

WSB events are designated days to promote WSBs. Other activities and prizes can be incorporated into the event.



Principal Miyasato (left) from Fern Elementary and Principal Kusuda (above) from Waikiki Elementary conduct a WSB every morning.



SRTS SPOTLIGHT

CURB EXTENSIONS:

IMPROVING THE ROUTE TO SCHOOL

Photos courtesy of Blue Zones Hawaii



Learning about street design



Identifying issues and solutions



Presenting at Neighborhood Board



Applying paint to curb extension

R.L. Stevenson Middle teamed with Blue Zones Hawaii to reimagine their parking lot entrance. Students applied various skills while participating in the design process. The curb extensions increased safety by reducing the crossing distance by 40% from 33 feet to 20 feet. Murals can be applied to electric boxes or hatched areas on roadways to enhance the route the school and create a sense of place unique to the area. Contact DTS to identify a viable location and design.



AFTER

BEFORE

The organization installing the artwork is responsible for ongoing maintenance of the art.



SRTS SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS: TYING SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS



Know someone who wants to be a crossing guard? Email Randy Tolentino (rtolentino@honolulu.gov) at the Honolulu Police Department to schedule a background check and orientation.



Volunteer leading a stretch while students gather at a park in the morning prior to walking to school.

Volunteers can often fill a much needed service. Creating a robust network of parents and community volunteers who believe in SRTS can keep initiatives going strong. Volunteers can become official crossing guards, lead a Walking School Bus, or initiate other SRTS efforts. A wonderful way to foster community involvement among students is by having students present traffic safety to parents and the Neighborhood Board.

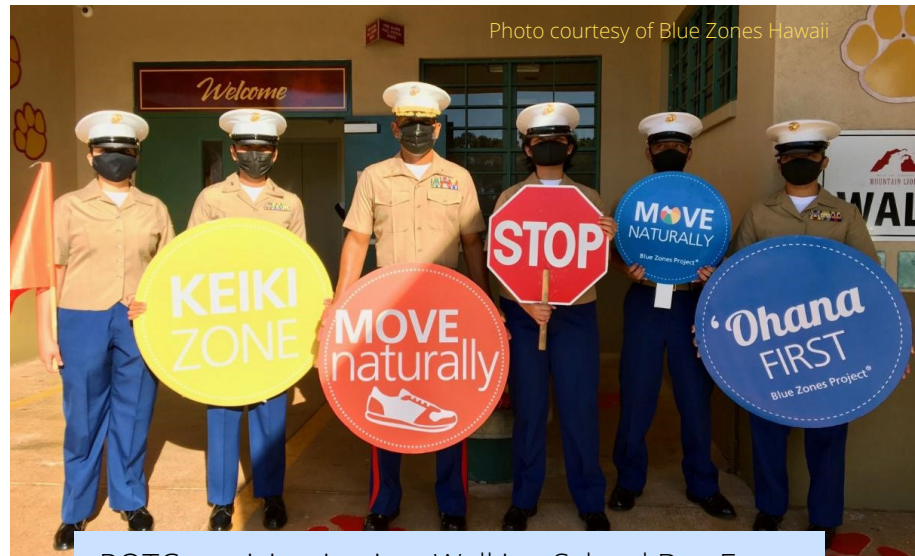


Photo courtesy of Blue Zones Hawaii

ROTC participating in a Walking School Bus Event at Mauka Lani Elementary.